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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,601	04/15/2004	Katherine Reid	017-001	6403

36844 7590 11/08/2005

CERMAK & KENEALY LLP
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RECEIVED
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NOV 10 2005

EXAMINER

WEAVER, SUE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/824,601	REID, KATHERINE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sue A. Weaver	3727	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the foldable pouch with at least one strap as claimed in claim 1 having two spaced apart strap extensions as claimed in claim 9, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

Replacement Drawing Sheets

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Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement sheets which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments section, or remarks, section of the amendment paper. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). A replacement sheet must include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and within the top margin.

Annotated Drawing Sheets

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheet(s) must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheet" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is noted that that the claim for a strap extension implies an extension of a strap. However claim 1 only positively sets forth one strap. What then does the second strap extension of claim 9 extend from, if the two strap extensions are spaced apart as claimed?

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taussig '165 in view of Cohen '766.

Taussig teaches a foldable bag with a top opening and front and back attached at the side and bottom. Note the securing system taught by Taussig at 46 and 47 for securing the bag in the folded position. Note also the provision of at least one stiffening member at spaced apart positions at 49 to retain the shape. To have provided the bag of Taussig with at least one strap with attachment to form a closed loop for attaching to the handle of a bag for ease of carrying the pair of bags would have been obvious in view of such teaching by Cohen at 22, 26. To have further provided the securing means so as to fold the bag in the manner taught by Cohen would also have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art. Note that the stiffening members of Taussig are considered to be at the back wall at the seams. Members 50 define interior pockets in the bag of Taussig.

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pulichino, Jr. et al '431.

To have formed one of the stiffening members as a member at the back of the bag to support hangers would have been obvious in view of such teaching by Pulichino, Jr. et al 57.

5. Claims 1-7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNally '956 in view of Simonett et al '178.

McNally teaches a foldable pouch or bag with a strap with attachment means to form a loop and a securing system at 22, 23 for securing the bag when folded. Note that the flap 17, 19 is capable of securing to a handle if one so desired. To have further provided the bag with spaced stiffeners to reinforce the bag would have been obvious in view of such teaching by Simonett et al at 13 a'-d'.

6. Claims 8, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents show other foldable bags or securing systems.

8. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in

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such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on _____
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. () _____ - _____ on _____
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

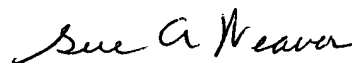
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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sue A. Weaver whose telephone number is (571) 272-4548. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday (6-4:30).

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SW



SUE A. WEAVER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 3200

FORM PTO 1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	ATTY. DKT. NO.: 017-001	APP. NO.: <u>(to be assigned)</u>
	APPLICANT(S): Katherine REID <u>10/824,601</u>	
	FILING DATE: [herewith]	Group Art Unit:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUB'N DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
SW	662,000	11/1900	Kinstier	—	—	
SW	1,818,030	8/1931	Arnold	—	—	
SW	1,997,637	4/1935	Gebelein	—	—	
SW	2,119,490	5/1938	Pellerin	—	—	
SW	2,463,302	3/1949	Orchard	—	—	
SW	2,497,325	2/1950	Scherba	—	—	
SW	2,707,035	4/1955	Lashley	—	—	
SW	4,685,546	8/1987	Sadow	190	102	
SW	4,974,709	12/1990	Furlop et al	190	102	
SW	5,002,401	3/1991	Blackman	383	38	
SW	5,255,833	10/1993	McAllister	224	202	
SW	5,354,131	10/1994	Mogil	383	24	
SW	5,520,462	5/1996	Clark	383	37	
SW	5,584,599	12/1996	Knittle	405	15	
SW	5,671,832	9/1997	London et al	190	108	
SW	5,862,526	1/1999	Longcor et al	2	338	
SW	5,947,241	9/1999	Rausch	190	108	
SW	6,109,402	8/2000	Godshaw et al	190	108	
SW	6,230,771	5/2001	Hellenbrand	150	111	
SW	6,283,260	9/2001	Yasuda, Sr.	190	102	
SW	6,478,151	11/2002	Schmidt et al	306	315.5	
SW	6,637,563	10/2003	Ruckh	190	108	
SW	D 453,994	3/2002	Meissner	D3	273	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION
						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Publisher, etc.)

EXAMINER <i>Bue Weaver</i>	DATE CONSIDERED <i>11/3/05</i>
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.	

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/824,601		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination REID, KATHERINE	
	Examiner Sue A. Weaver		Art Unit 3727	Page 1 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-3,139,165	06-1964	TAUSSIG HOWARD L	190/115
	B	US-5,031,766	07-1991	Cohen, David A.	206/289
	C	US-4,854,431	08-1989	Pulichino et al.	190/108
	D	US-1,537,956	05-1925	MCNALLY JOHN E	383/2
	E	US-5,988,878	11-1999	Simonett et al.	383/2
	F	US-2005/0028910	02-2005	Duty, Carolyn I.	150/128
	G	US-5,660,476	08-1997	DeCoster, Pieter K. J.	383/29
	H	US-2,740,506	04-1956	MICHAEL DAVIS	206/287.1
	I	US-2,626,689	01-1953	MICHAEL DAVIS; et. al.	206/287.1
	J	US-5,505,297	04-1996	Myers, Jay E.	206/279
	K	US-D385,419	10-1997	Ibigbami, Pauline	D3/283
	L	US-2,774,450	12-1956	SMALLBERG HARRY R	190/127
	M	US-2,087,211	07-1937	MARBURY HERBERT B; et. al.	190/111

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N	JP 4314401 A	11-1992	JAPAN	KANEKO	
	O	GB 2257028 A	01-1993	United Kingdom	CHAGGAR, JASBIR SINGH	A45C 03/00
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/824,601	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination REID, KATHERINE	
	Examiner Sue A. Weaver	Art Unit 3727	Page 2 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-2,319,729	05-1943	FORD GLADYS C	190/102
	B	US-1,273,875	07-1918	Kosta	190/127
	C	US-1,636,838	07-1927	ROSER MATHIAS F	190/103
	D	US-5,044,699	09-1991	Duty, Carolyn	383/37
	E	US-4,211,091	07-1980	Campbell, June H.	62/372
	F	US-4,911,271	03-1990	Stanley, Joseph B.	190/102
	G	US-3,837,447	09-1974	Honan, Bernard M.	190/110
	H	US-3,729,038	04-1973	Ekeson, Alfred G.	190/110
	I	US-1,712,772	05-1929	KRANNERT VICTOR L	190/102
	J	US-867,403	10-1907	NEWSON	24/3.1
	K	US-6,012,557	01-2000	Derelanko, Michael J.	190/108
	L	US-6,182,878	02-2001	Racca, Enrico	224/605
	M	US-5,050,713	09-1991	Lee, Robert M.	190/108

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

(19)日本国特許庁 (J P)

(12) 公 開 特 許 公 報 (A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特開平4-314401

(43)公開日 平成4年(1992)11月5日

(51)Int.Cl.⁵

A 4 5 C 13/36

識別記号

庁内整理番号

F I

技術表示箇所

A 2119-3B

Z 2119-3B

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数1(全 5 頁)

(21)出願番号 特願平3-19241

(22)出願日 平成3年(1991)1月21日

(71)出願人 591026997

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東京都台東区竜泉2-20-9

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社丸和エコー内

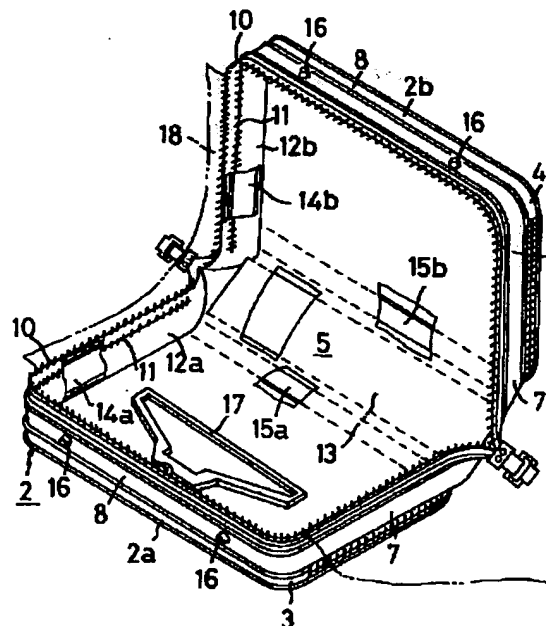
(74)代理人 弁理士 中川 周吉 (外1名)

(54)【発明の名称】 スーツケース

(57)【要約】

【目的】本発明はスーツケースの両側襜部を補強し、これによって、襜部が内側に湾曲することを防止しようとするものである。

【構成】上面部5、底部8、両側の襜部6、7よりなるケース本体2のほぼ中央部にスライドファスナー10を設けて構成したスーツケース1に於いて、分割ケース本体2a、2bの内面に袋部12a、12bを設け、コ状補強枠体14a、14bを夫々これ等の袋部12a、12bに収納し、かつコ状補強枠体14a、14bの開口部を内側から支持し得る補強板15a、15bを上面部5の両側に埋設して構成したスーツケースである。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 上面部、底部、両側襜部よりなるケース本体の該底部及び両側襜部のほぼ中央部にスライドファスナーを設けることによってケース本体をそのほぼ中央部で巾広く開閉し得るスーツケースに於いて、前記スライドファスナーで2分割される底部及びこれに続く両側襜部の両側の内側面に設けられた袋部内に、コ状補強枠体を収納し、かつ該コ状補強枠体の閉口部を内側から支持し得る補強板を前記ケース本体の上面部両側に埋設して構成したことを特徴としたスーツケース。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】 本発明はスーツケースに係り、特にケース本体の両側襜部及び底部を一体的に補強することを可能としたスーツケースに関するものである。

【0002】

【従来の技術】 従来のこの種のスーツケースは、例えば特公昭61-55361号公報、同60-23601号公報、特公平1-10202号公報、同1-39766号公報或いは実公平1-20896号公報等に示す如く、ケース本体の片側部或いは両側部に夫々スライドファスナーを設け、ケース本体を片側部或いは両側部で開閉するのが一般的であった。

【0003】 しかし、これ等の場合には、ケース本体を中央部で巾広く開くことが出来ない為、一部には実公昭58-43880号公報に示す如く、ケース本体のほぼ中央部にスライドファスナーを設け、これによってケース本体をほぼ中央部から巾広く開き得るようにした技術もあった。

【0004】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 然るに、前者のケース本体の片側部或いは両側部にスライドファスナーを設け、中央部から離れた側部で開閉し得るようにしたスーツケースの場合には、ケース本体の全周に配設される矩形枠体をケース本体の中央部に配設して構成することが出来るので、ケース本体の強度、特に両襜部の強度を十分に補強することが出来た。

【0005】 しかし、後者のスーツケースのように、ケース本体の中央部にスライドファスナーを設け、これによってケース本体を中央部から2つ割りして、巾広く開くようにしたスーツケースに於いては、前述の如き矩形枠体を配設することが困難である為、前記実公昭58-43880号公報に示すように、2つ割りしたケース本体の底部及びこれに連続する両側の襜部の一部に亘って夫々別々に補強パネルを配設して構成していた。

【0006】 所で、この様にケース本体の底部及び襜部の一部に補強パネルを配設して構成したスーツケースの場合には、スーツケースを搬送したり、積み込んだり、或いは落下したりして、スーツケースの襜部に外圧がかかると、特にこの襜部が内方に簡単に湾曲してしまい、

スーツケースを変形させる上に、スーツケース内に収納した品物を損傷せしめる等の問題があった。

【0007】 本発明に係るスーツケースは、前述の従来の問題点に鑑み開発した技術であって、特に中央部で巾広く2つ割りされるスーツケースの、底部から両側の襜部を一体的に補強し、これによって襜部が内側に湾曲することを防止可能としたスーツケースを提供しようとするものである。

【0008】

10 【課題を解決するための手段】 本発明に係るスーツケースは、従来の問題点を根本的に改善した技術であり、その要旨は上面部、底部、両側襜部よりなるケース本体の該底部及び両側襜部のほぼ中央部にスライドファスナーを設けることによってケース本体をそのほぼ中央部で巾広く開閉し得るスーツケースに於いて、前記スライドファスナーで2分割される底部及びこれに続く両側襜部の両側の内側面に設けられた袋部内に、コ状補強枠体を収納し、かつ該コ状補強枠体の閉口部を内側から支持し得る補強板を前記ケース本体の上面部両側に埋設して構成したものである。

【0009】

30 【作用】 本発明に係るスーツケースは上述の如く、中央部に設けたスライドファスナーによって中央部から2分割して開閉し得るケース本体の底部及びそれに連続する両側の襜部に、夫々両方にコ状補強枠体を配設したので、これによって両側の襜部を補強し、これ等の襜部が外圧で全体的に内側に湾曲することを防止出来る。本発明のスーツケースに於いては、前記コ状補強枠体の閉口部を内側から支持し得る補強板をケース本体の上面部両側に埋設し、これによって底部及び襜部に配設されたコ状補強枠体の閉口部を内側から支持したので、特に該襜部の上部が内方に湾曲することを防止出来る。

【0010】 本発明に於いては、上述の如く、2分割されるケース本体の底部及び両側襜部の内側面に袋部を設けたので、コ状補強枠体はこの袋部の中に収納することが出来、これによってコ状補強枠体を極めて体裁良く、かつ簡単にケース本体に取り付けることが出来る。

【0011】

40 【実施例】 図により本発明に係るスーツケースの一実施例を具体的に説明すると、図1は本発明に係るスーツケースの要部の構成を示す斜視説明図、図2はその組立状態を示す一部切断説明図、図3はそのスーツケースの内部構成を示す斜視説明図、図4はそのスーツケースの外観図、図5はそのスーツケースの襜部が内側に湾曲しない原理を示す説明図である。

【0012】 図4に於いて、1は本発明に係るスーツケースであって、ケース本体2の両側にポケット3、4を夫々併設することによって構成されている。ケース本体2は上面部5、両側の襜部6、7及び底部8より形成され、上面部5には取手9が取り付けられている。ケース

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本体2の両側の襜部6、7及び底部8の中央部には夫々一連のスライドファスナー10が設けられ、このスライドファスナー10によって、襜部6、7及び底部8を中央部から巾広く開くことが出来るように構成されている。

【0013】図1及び図2に於いて、ケース本体2は、底部8及びこれに連続する襜部6、7の中央部に設けたスライドファスナー10によって、左右に巾広く開いて両側に扁平状に載置することが出来るように構成されている。左右に開かれた分割ケース本体2a、2bの内側面には、夫々ファスナー11によって開閉し得る袋部12a、12bが底部8から両側の襜部6、7に亘って設けられている。この袋部12a、12bはファスナー11の外に、スナップ等の他の開閉手段が利用出来る。また、ケース本体2の上面部5の内部には巾広の補強上板13が埋設され、これによって上面部5を補強すると共に、前記取手9はこの補強上板13に取付固定されている。

【0014】14a、14bは夫々コ状補強枠体であって、前記分割ケース本体2a、2bの内面に設けられた袋部12a、12bに収納し得るように構成されている。15a、15bは該コ状補強枠体14a、14bの開口部を内側から支持し得る補強板であって、ケース本体2の上面部5の両側に夫々埋設し得るように構成されている。

【0015】上記コ状補強枠体14a、14bは、図2及び図5に示す如く、袋部12a、12bに収納した後、鉤16を介して底部8及び襜部6、7に夫々強固に一体的に固定されている。また、上記補強板15a、15bを上面部5の両側に取り付けに当たっては、図4及び図5に示す如く、スーツケース1を組み立てた際に、これ等の補強板15a、15bが、襜部6、7に収納されたコ状補強枠体14a、14bの開口部の内側に位置するように、考慮されて取り付けられている。

【0016】本考案に係るスーツケース1の内部にはハンガー17が取り付けられており、従って、背丈の大きいオーバーやロングドレス等は、このハンガー17に掛けたまま、分割ケース本体2a、2bにまたがって収納することが出来る。図2及び図3に示す如く、スーツケ

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ース1の内部には内装カバー18が設けられ、スーツケース1内に収納した品物を、この内装カバー18で更に被うことが出来るように構成されている。

【0017】

【発明の効果】本発明に係るスーツケースは、上述の如き構造と作用とを有するので、中央部で2分割されるケース本体の夫々の底部及び襜部を、コ状補強枠体及び補強板で補強することが出来、これによって特にケース本体の襜部が内側に湾曲することを防止することが出来る。従って、スーツケース内に収納した品物を保護し、かつスーツケースの変形を防止することが出来る。2分割されるケース本体の夫々の内面に袋部を設けたので、コ状補強枠体をこの袋部に簡単かつ確実に収納して取り付けることが出来る。また、コ状補強枠体は袋部で完全に被覆されるので、体裁が良く、スーツ等の収納品がコ状補強枠体に触れることなく、収納品を保護することが出来る等の特徴を有するものである。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明に係るスーツケースの要部の構成を示す斜視説明図である。

【図2】組立状態を示す一部切断説明図である。

【図3】スーツケースの内部構成を示す斜視説明図である。

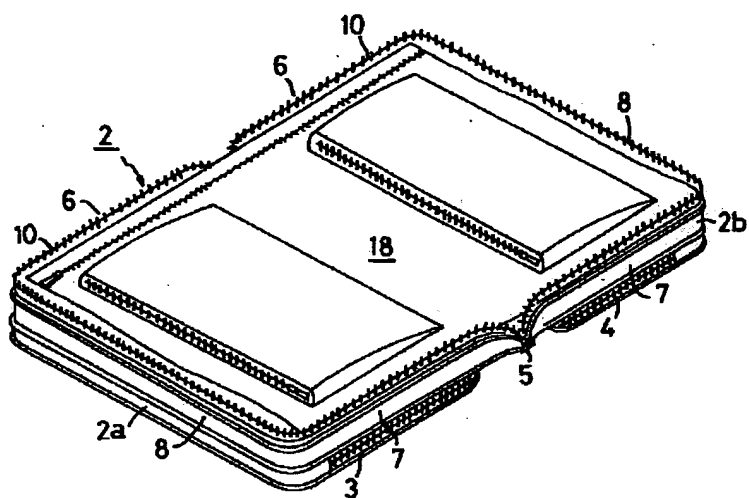
【図4】スーツケースの外観図である。

【図5】スーツケースの襜部が内側に湾曲しない原理を示す説明図である。

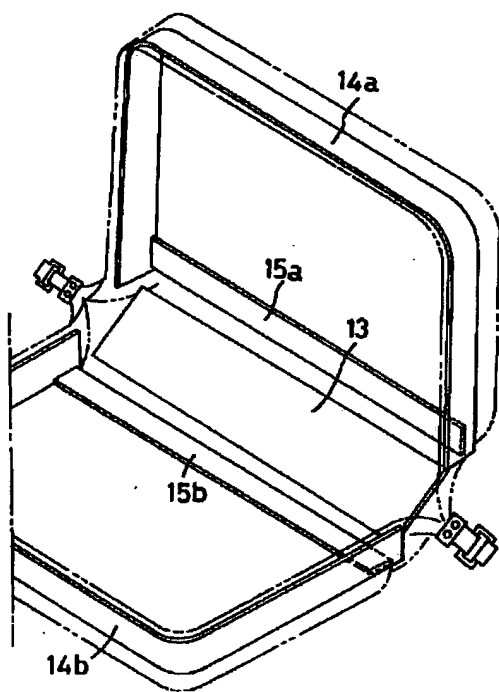
【符号の説明】

1	スーツケース
2	ケース本体
2a, 2b	分割ケース本体
3, 4	ポケット
5	上面部
6, 7	襜部
8	底部
10, 11	ファスナー
12a, 12b	袋部
13	補強上板
14a, 14b	コ状補強枠体
15a, 15b	補強板

【図3】



【図5】



PAT-NO: JP404314401A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 04314401 A
TITLE: SUITCASE
PUBN-DATE: November 5, 1992

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
KANEKO, KATSUYOSHI	

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
KK MARUWA ECHO N/A	

APPL-NO: JP03019241
APPL-DATE: January 21, 1991

INT-CL (IPC): A45C013/36

US-CL-CURRENT: 190/122 , 190/127

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To prevent gusset parts from being bent inside by reinforcing the gusset parts on both sides of a suitcase.

CONSTITUTION: A suitcase 1 includes a slide fastener 10 nearly at the central part of a case body 2 which consists of an upper face part 5, bottom parts 8 and gusset parts 6, 7 on both sides thereof. Bag parts 12a, 12b are respectively provided at each inside of split case bodies 2a, 2b and U-shaped reinforcing frame bodies 14a, 14b are respectively placed in these bag parts 12a, 12b. Reinforcing plates 15a, 15b wherewith openings of the U-shaped reinforcing frame bodies 14a, 14b are respectively supported from inside, are separately buried at each inside on both sides of the upper face 5.

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GB 1458044 A US 4685546 A

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UK CL (Edition K) A4G
INT CL⁵ A45C 3/00 13/00 15/00

(54) Holder for carrying articles on the outside of a brief case or the like

(57) A holder for suspending on the outside of a case 16 so as to hang down only one side 16a of the case for carrying articles required to be readily accessible, comprises a flexible base sheet 2 having a reinforced portion 3 at its upper end and attached to the case by means of an opening 6 in the reinforced portion which fits about the carrying handle 15 of the case and through which the carrying handle projects so as to be grasped by a person using the case. The opening 6 is retained in engagement with the handle by a strap 7 extending across the opening and through the handle and having a releasable fastening at one end. The part of the flexible base sheet below the reinforced portion hangs down the side of the case and has article receiving pockets 10, 11.

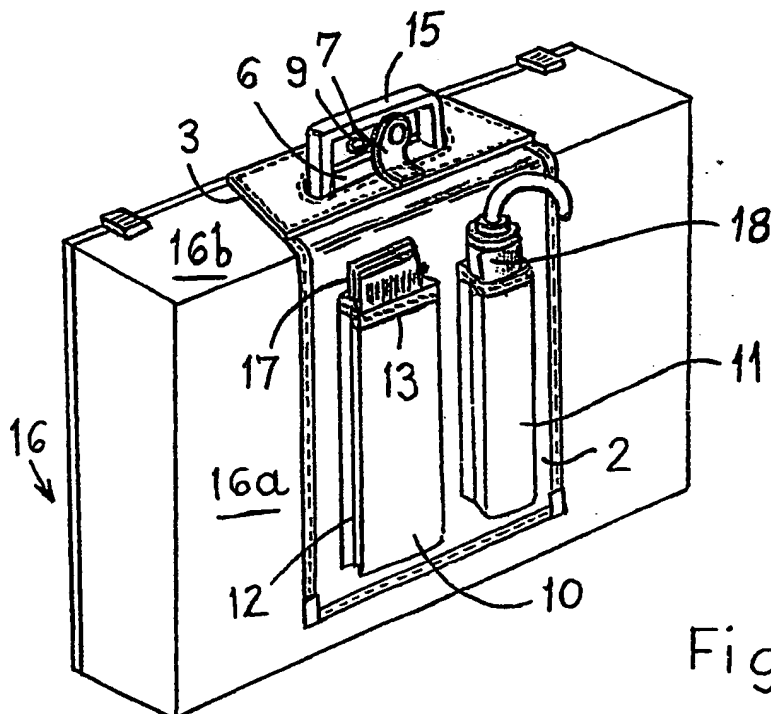


Fig. 2

GB 2 257 028 A

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HOLDER FOR CARRYING ARTICLES ON THE OUTSIDE
OF A BRIEF CASE OR THE LIKE

The present invention relates to a holder for hanging on the outside of a brief case, attaché case or other case or travelling bag for conveniently carrying articles, such as, newspapers, periodicals, mobile telephones and foldable umbrellas, in readily accessible positions during travelling.

It is often a problem, and at least inconvenient, for a person travelling with a case or bag to extract a newspaper, periodical or umbrella from the case or bag, when required, and/or pack such an article in the case or bag, when not required, particularly in crowded public places or public transport situations. It may also be inconvenient to carry a mobile telephone outside of a bag with the aerial extended, which is preferable for operation of the telephone.

Auxiliary holders for use with travelling cases or bags are known which are in the form of a saddle bag for carrying on a main bag or case with compartments hanging down opposite sides of the latter. These prior saddle bag type holders have the disadvantage that, when in place, the main case or bag cannot be opened.

An object of the present invention is to alleviate the problems described above and provide an auxiliary holder which may be hung on the outside of a case or bag for conveniently carrying articles required to be accessible during travel and which may be readily packed in the case or bag, together with the carried articles, when not required. Another object is to provide such a holder which is adapted to hang down only one side of the case or bag so that, when in use, it does not prohibit opening of the case or bag.

To this end, the invention consists in a holder

which may be suspended on the outside of a case, travelling bag or other bag so as to hang down only one side of the bag for carrying one or more articles required to be readily accessible, comprising a flexible base sheet having means adjacent an end of the sheet for attaching the holder to a carrying handle of the bag so that at least a part of the base sheet hangs down one side of the bag, and at least one article receiving pocket located on said part of the base sheet.

Conveniently, the means for attaching the holder to the carrying handle of a bag includes an opening in the base sheet, or an extension piece attached to the base sheet, which opening fits about the carrying handle and through which the carrying handle projects so as to be grasped by a person using the bag. With this arrangement, when the carrying handle is grasped and the bag is being carried, the holder is securely suspended from the carrying handle and cannot be disengaged from the latter.

The base sheet may be reinforced adjacent and about the opening by sheet material which is stiffer than the base sheet or the extension piece may comprise a sheet of such stiffer material. The stiffer reinforcement, or extension piece, may also be made from sheet material which is thicker and/or denser than the base sheet material so as to provide weight as well as stiffness and strength, at the attachment to the handle. The additional stiffness provided by the reinforcement or extension piece avoids deformation or distortion of the holder when it is suspended from the carrying handle of a bag and the additional weight ensures that the attachment means seats more firmly on the top of the bag about the carrying handle. Conveniently, the reinforcement or extension piece is made from a synthetic material, such as, reconstituted leather. The base sheet and pockets may be made from flexible plastics sheet and/or textile material.

Whilst the provision of the reinforcement, or an extension piece, of stiffer sheet material results in a more durable and acceptable product, the omission of such reinforcement or extension piece enables the production of a cheaper article which may, for example, be used for promotional purposes and be given away free during a marketing exercise or in shops, exhibitions, etc. It may be simply and cheaply produced as a plastics base sheet having one or more article receiving pockets, also made from plastics sheet material, heat welded to the base sheet.

The means for attaching the holder to a carrying handle includes a device for securely retaining the opening on the carrying handle when the latter is not being grasped by a user. Such a device may simply comprise a security strap or tape extending across the opening and through the carrying handle. This security strap or tape may be permanently attached at one end to the base sheet, reinforcement or extension piece on one side of the opening and have releasable fastening means at its opposite end which is engageable with cooperating fastening means on the other side of the opening. The fastening means may, for example, be press stud fasteners or velcro^(R.T.M.) fastening strips.

In an alternative embodiment, the means for attaching the holder to a carrying handle comprises a web portion of the base sheet or an extension piece which projects through the carrying handle and which has portions extending in opposite directions from its end remote from the base sheet to extend about opposite ends of the handle and having releasable fastening means for engaging cooperating fastening means on the base sheet or extension piece. When the holder is suspended from the carrying handle of a bag, the web portion and its associated projecting portions encircle and are secured about opposite ends of the carrying handle so as to secure the holder to the carrying handle. As with the first embodiment, in the area of the

web portion, the base sheet may be reinforced by sheet material which is stiffer than the base sheet material or the extension piece may be formed from sheet of such stiffer material.

In a preferred embodiment, two article receiving pockets are arranged side-by-side on the base sheet, one being configured so as to be suitable more particularly for holding newspapers, periodicals and the like, and the other so as to be suitable for holding a foldable umbrella or mobile telephone. The pockets may also be designed for other specific uses. For example, another embodiment may be specifically intended for use by doctors, whereupon the pockets may be designed for holding a stethoscope and other medical items which doctors regularly use when examining patients.

The bottom ends of the pockets may be formed with slits or other openings arranged so as to allow for drainage of any dampness or water entering the pockets whilst securely holding articles deposited in the pockets. The top edges of the pockets are preferably stiffened so as to prevent them from fully collapsing, thereby facilitating the insertion of articles.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of one embodiment of the invention, and

Figure 2 illustrates the embodiment in use on a brief case.

Referring to the drawings, the holder 1 comprises a tough flexible base sheet 2 which is of generally rectangular shape in plan and is reinforced at its upper end portion 3 intended to be attached to the carrying handle of a case by a piece 4 of sheet material which is stiffer, thicker and denser than the base sheet material. The end

portion 3 is shaped with slightly convergent side edges 5 and the reinforcing sheet 4 is laminated with this end portion, for example, by stitching. The base sheet may be made from flexible plastics sheet material whilst the reinforcing sheet may be reconstituted leather.

An elongated opening 6 is formed through the base and reinforcing sheets at the end portion 3 for attaching the holder to the carrying handle of a case. A strap 7, which may, for example, be made from the same material as the reinforcing sheet, is secured to the material at one side of the opening 6, for example, by stitching, and has a press stud fastening 8 at its opposite end for snapping into engagement with a cooperating fastener part 9 fixed to the material at the opposite side of the opening so that the strap can be fastened across a central region of the opening.

Secured to the base sheet 2, for example, by stitching are two elongated pockets 10,11 made from the same material as the base sheet. Alternatively, they may be made from other less tough or contrasting coloured flexible sheet material. The pockets may have pleated side portions 12 enabling them readily to collapse into a substantially flat condition when not in use. For the same reason and also to provide slits permitting any wetness to drain from the pockets, the bottoms of the pockets are not attached to the bottom edges of the side portions 12.

Below the reinforcing piece 4, the edges of the base sheet and also the top edges of the pockets are bound with a webbing or vinyl binding material 13 to strengthen the edges and prevent fraying. Brass finishing clips 14 are affixed to the bottom corners of the base sheet, generally coterminus with the binding 13 to avoid the need to seam about corners, which is a difficult operation, and to provide some decorative enhancement. Also, for decorative purposes, the reinforcing sheet 4 and binding 13 may be of

contrasting colour to the base sheet and/or pockets.

In use, the holder 1 is suspended from the carrying handle 15 of a brief case 16 or similar bag so as to hang down only one side 16a of the case, as is more particularly illustrated in Figure 2. The opening 6 in the upper end portion 3 of the holder fits about the carrying 15 handle which projects through the opening so as to be readily grasped by a person using the bag. The strap 7 is fastened through the loop of the handle 15 to secure the holder in place. The reinforcing sheet 4 adds weight to the end portion 3 so that it seats firmly on the top 16b of the case 16 about the handle and its stiffness and strength avoids distortion in the shape of the holder which may otherwise occur when the holder is in use owing to the weight of articles deposited in the pockets 10,11. The flexible nature of the base sheet enables it readily to bend about the top edge of the case and hang down the outside thereof.

In the particular embodiment illustrated, the first pocket 10 is conveniently sized to receive a newspaper 17 whilst the second pocket 11 is sized to receive a foldable umbrella 18. The base sheet and the pockets are preferably made from a water resistant plastics or textile material so as to afford protection to articles carried in the pockets.

Whilst a particular embodiment has been described, it will be understood that modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. For example, the reinforcing sheet 4 may be arranged as an extension of the base sheet 2 instead of being laminated to a corresponding part of latter.

CLAIMS

1. A holder which may be suspended on the outside of a case, travelling bag or other bag so as to hang down only one side of the bag for carrying one or more articles required to be readily accessible, comprising a flexible base sheet having means adjacent an end of the sheet for attaching the holder to a carrying handle of the bag so that at least part of the base sheet hangs down one side of the bag, and at least one article receiving pocket located on said part of the base sheet.

2. A holder as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder attaching means includes an opening in the base sheet, or an extension piece, which opening fits about the carrying handle of the bag and through which the carrying handle projects so as to be grasped by a person using the bag.

3. A holder as claimed in claim 2, wherein the base sheet is reinforced adjacent and about the opening by sheet material which is stiffer than the base sheet, or the extension piece comprises sheet of such stiffer material.

4. A holder as claimed in claim 3, wherein the reinforcing sheet material or extension sheet is thicker and/or denser than the base sheet material so as to provide weight, as well as stiffness and strength, at the holder attaching means.

5. A holder as claimed in claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein the holder attaching means includes a device for retaining the opening on the carrying handle.

6. A holder as claimed in claim 5, wherein the retaining means comprises a strap attached at one end to the holder on one side of the opening and having releasable fastening means at its opposite end which is engageable with cooperating fastening means on the holder at the opposite side of the opening.

7. A holder as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder

attaching means comprises a web portion of the base sheet, or an extension piece, which is dimensioned to project through the carrying handle and which has portions extending in opposite directions from its end remote from the base sheet so as to extend about opposite ends of the handle and having releasable fastening means for engaging cooperating fastening means on the base sheet or extension piece.

8. A holder as claimed in claim 7, wherein the base sheet is reinforced in the area of the web portion by sheet material which is stiffer than the base sheet material or the extension piece is formed from sheet of such stiffer material.

9. A holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including two article receiving pockets arranged side-by-side on the base sheet with their open ends adjacent the holder attaching means.

10. A holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the bottom end of the or each pocket is formed with a slit or other opening arranged to allow for drainage of any dampness or water from the pockets.

11. A holder for suspending on the outside of a case, travelling bag or other bag, constructed, arranged and adapted to be used substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

- 9 -

Patents Act 1977
Examiner's report to the Comptroller under
Section 17 (The Search Report)

Application number

GB 9213506.0

Relevant Technical fields

(i) UK Cl (Edition K) A4G

(ii) Int Cl (Edition 5) A45C 3/00 13/00 15/00

Databases (see over)

(i) UK Patent Office

(ii)

Search Examiner

G NICHOLLS

Date of Search

9 SEPTEMBER 1992

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims

1-11

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 1458044 (SINCLAIR OWEN) Whole document	1, 2
X	US 4685546 (SADOW) Whole document	1-3

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

Categories of documents

X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.

A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.

P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.

E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

&: Member of the same patent family, corresponding document.

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).

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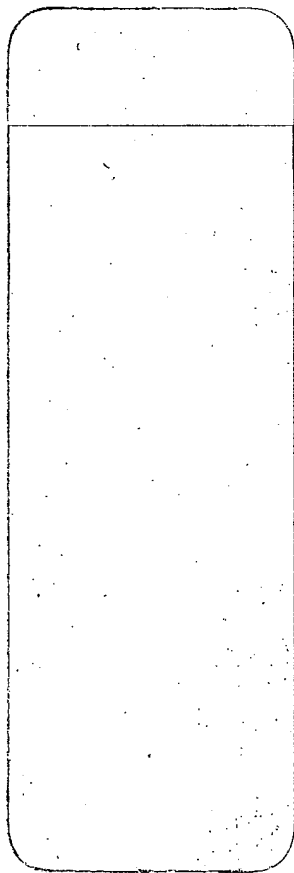
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